

Annual Quality Assurance Summary

This summary forms part of our annual quality assurance to review how an organisation is meeting our standards for medical education and training as detailed in [Promoting excellence](#). It provides an overview of the QA activities undertaken over the course of a year and an overview of findings including any areas of notable practice or requirements and recommendations we have set. The summary is published.

Organisation	Queen Mary University of London Barts and The London School of Medicine & Dentistry
Review period	September 2020 – September 2021

Overview of findings

Overall findings statement

From the SAQ submission, and the clarification of some points during the SAQ meeting, we consider that Barts and The London School of Medicine & Dentistry (BLSMD) is meeting the standards set out in the GMC's *Promoting excellence*.

The QA activities that we have carried out in this annual cycle have provided good opportunities to observe how BLSMD meet our standards in themes 1 (Learning environment and culture), 2 (Educational governance and leadership), 3 (Supporting learners), 4 (Supporting educators) and 5 (Developing and implementing curricula) of this guidance.

We also carried out QA activities for the school's MBBS Malta programme, the final report for which can be found on our website. These activities included virtual meetings with students, school staff and placement providers, as well as an extensive document review. Our report notes areas working well, in addition to requirements and recommendations.

Quality Activity undertaken

	Activity	Date	Summary
1	Annual quality engagement meeting	27 August 2020	<p>The annual quality engagement meeting was attended by members of the GMC's education QA team and members of the BLSMD Quality Management Team. Prior to the meeting the agenda and relevant documents were circulated for review.</p> <p>At this meeting we discussed the proactive QA process roll-out. The next steps were agreed upon and a summary of the meeting and related actions were circulated for agreement in the weeks following.</p>
2	SAQ submission	09 November 2020	<p>The SAQ was submitted on time and covered all five themes of <i>Promoting excellence</i>. The submission included a list of planned BLSMD activities that we could observe for quality assurance purposes.</p>
3	SAQ feedback meeting	15 January 2021	<p>This meeting was held to provide summarised feedback to BLSMD on its 2020/21 SAQ submission, and to seek clarity and additional information on certain responses. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss potential QA activities to undertake in this annual cycle.</p> <p>The activities were not selected because of any specific risks identified through the SAQ, and we identified no areas of risk from the SAQ submission or during the SAQ meeting. We are satisfied that where further information and/or clarification is still required that this can be provided in the next SAQ submission.</p> <p>Following this meeting, BLSMD was provided with written feedback on the SAQ submission.</p>

4	Observation – Quality Management visit to Colchester Hospital (Virtual visit via MS Teams)	31 March 2021	<p>This activity was listed on the SAQ by BLSMD against Themes 1, 2 and 4.</p> <p>By observing a visit we hoped to gain a better understanding of how the school uses information, such as that collected during student surveys and from educator feedback, to inform delivery and quality management of the programme.</p> <p>Ahead of the visit, the trust had been asked by the school to complete a Self-Evaluation Questionnaire. Despite mention being made in this document that responses will be used for onward reporting to the GMC, this was not explicit (for example, there was no cross referencing of questions to school policies or <i>Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training</i>). The school was asked to consider providing additional guidance to those responsible for completing the questionnaire as this may help inform the responses provided.</p> <p>The visit team spoke with students on site to obtain feedback and also spoke with members of the trust team. The visit provided an opportunity for the school to provide the trust with an update on activity over the past year, discuss the responses provided in the Self-Evaluation Questionnaire, identify areas working well and areas for improvement.</p>
5	Observation – Medical Education Committee (Virtual meeting held via MS Team)	27 July 2021	<p>This activity was listed on the SAQ by BLSMD against Themes 1 and 2.</p> <p>We observed a Medical Education Committee meeting because we wanted to learn more about the school’s educational governance structure. Specifically, we wanted to gain a better understanding of how this committee, and the sub-committees that feed into it, combine to ensure GMC standards are being met.</p> <p>In the SAQ submission the school had mentioned that student representatives are present on a number of committees, including the Medical Education Committee.</p>

			<p>Observing this meeting provided an opportunity to learn more about how the school collects and responds to student feedback.</p> <p>The meeting was well attended, and included student representation. Despite the full agenda, all attendees were encouraged to participate in discussions on the day. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, not all agenda items were covered, however as supporting documentation had been issued in advance on the meeting, attendees did have the opportunity to review updates from the different sub-committees beforehand.</p>
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Quality Reporting System (QRS)

We use the QRS to monitor concerns raised by organisation when they identify that our standards are not being met in a training environment. Concerns are managed locally by the responsible organisation until resolution.

Activity	Date	Summary
Quality Reporting System (QRS)	Ongoing	<p>The QRS was introduced to the school in 2020. Prior to this the school had reported concerns and areas of good practice via the Medical School Annual Return (MSAR).</p> <p>Outstanding concerns from the MSAR were transferred to the QRS and the school has engaged well with the new system. Timely and detailed updates have been provided throughout the reporting period.</p> <p>No new items have been added by the school and given the challenges in the delivery of medical education and training over the past year, we will be looking to further our understanding of how the school identifies risk and the threshold used for onward reporting.</p>

Next steps

Overall findings statement

The GMC's responses to the information submitted in the SAQ gives feedback on each theme to help BLSMD complete the updates to the questionnaire in the next annual cycle. Further to this, and based on our findings from the quality activities we have undertaken, in the next cycle we would like to learn more about how qualitative and quantitative data collected by the school is used to inform quality management activities. This information should be included in the SAQ at question EGL1-01. We would also like to improve our understanding of how the new raising concerns policy has been communicated in the school, and what plans there are to monitor the process. This information should be included in the SAQ at questions LEC1-01. Finally, in question LEC1-06 please describe how feedback and actions from the SSLC are managed and communicated within the school.

Organisation response

The organisation has the right to reply to the AQAS; if they have responded it will be included below.

Organisation response